



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## **School Committee Minutes 06-26-2001**

*Approved October 11, 2001*

*Arlington School Committee*

*Tuesday, June 26, 2001*

*Hardy School*

**Present:**     **Joani LaMachia, Chair**           **Suzanne Owayda**  
              **David McKenna, Vice-Chair**       **Paul Schlichtman**  
              **Denis Sullivan, Secretary**       **Martin Thrope**  
              **Barbara Goodman**

**Superintendent**           **Kathleen Donovan**  
**Asst. Supt.**               **Joanne Gurry**  
**Chief Financial Officer**   **David Kale**  
**Director of Special Education**   **Marilyn Bisbicos**

**Call to Order: 6:40 PM**

### **Announcement of AHS Principal**

Supt. Donovan introduced Stephen Woodcock as the new principal of Arlington High School. Supt. Donovan and Asst. Supt. Gurry conducted a site visit to Sanford, Maine where Mr. Woodcock was principal. On that visit Mrs. Donovan stated that no one wanted him to leave and that he received accolades from teachers, parents, students and police. The Committee welcomed Mr. Woodcock and offered their support in any way possible. Mr. Woodcock stated that he looks forward to his new position in Arlington and stated that he would start work on August 1, 2001.

### **Approval of Ottoson Middle School Assistant Principal Job Description**

The Superintendent presented the job description for the assistant principal at the Ottoson. She noted that changes are minor and asked for the Committees' approval.

Mr. Thrope voiced his concern over the process used and the timing in receiving the job description. He emphasized that the School Committee should have received and approved the job description before the job was posted and advertised.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted the approval of the Ottoson Assistant Principal Job Description as presented by the Superintendent. 6 yes, 1 present (Mr. Thrope voted presented)

Mr. Thrope also questioned Mr. McCarthy's new role replacing retiring coordinator Barbara Gorman, serving as chair of the English department, and assisting Mr. Woodcock. Mrs. Donovan reported that the English chair position is temporary until a replacement can be found; in addition, Mr. McCarthy's position as the assistant to the principal is an interim position for one year only with a substantial pay cut. The Superintendent noted that she wanted to give Mr. Woodcock the opportunity to interview potential candidates.

### **Approval of Field Trip**

Mrs. Donovan informed Committee Members that a group of teachers, students, and parents are on a school trip to Washington D.C. The Superintendent explained that because the trip is taking place after the close of school the teacher did not consider it a school trip and as a result did not submit it to the School Committee for approval. Mrs. Donovan noted that because the information was sent home from the Ottoson, that parent meetings were held at the Ottoson and that Ottoson teachers were chaperones, she considered it to be a school trip. Mr. Schlichtman noted that since the trip was already in progress he did not see the point of approving it. He expressed concern relative to the relationship between the teachers and the private tour company.

Mr. McKenna pointed out that the reinstatement of the policy was done recently in response to the bus accident involving the students from Newton, and that at the time the teachers planned the trips they were unaware of the policy or procedure. Mr. McKenna suggested approving the request and placing the policy on the agenda at the first meeting in September. Mr. Thrope noted that the issue was being addressed in the policy manual and would be revisited in September.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. McKenna it was

Voted approval of the field trip to Washington D.C. 6 yes 1 no (Mr. Schlichtman voted no)

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded it was voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:10 PM.

Submitted by

Karen Tassone  
Committee Secretary